

Legislative Bulletin.....March 20, 2010

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H.Res. 1075 - Commending the members of the Agri-business Development Teams of the National Guard for their efforts to modernize agriculture practices and increase food production in war-torn countries (Luetkemeyer, R-MO)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Saturday, March 20, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1075 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Commends the members of the Agri-business Development Teams of the National Guard for their efforts, together with personnel of the Department of Agriculture and the United States Agency for International Development, to modernize agriculture practices and increase food production in war-torn countries.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “The Agri-business Development Teams of the National Guard began as a pilot program started in Missouri, and the Missouri National Guard worked with the Missouri Farm Bureau and the University of Missouri to draw a blueprint that could be followed by other Army National Guard units;
- “The Agri-business Development Teams now consist of units from 11 different States, which receive resources and guidance from the Department of Agriculture and the United States Agency for International Development;
- “In Afghanistan, the goals of the Agri-business Development Teams include improving irrigation systems and providing sustainable methods for fertilizing, planting, harvesting, marketing, and storing agricultural crops, modernizing a slaughter facility, setting up markets to trade crop and livestock, developing a juicing and canning facility, and improving livestock health through mobile vet clinics, all of which can help divert cropland from poppy production;
- “The Agri-business Development Teams also are partnering with the Department of Agriculture to have a directory of 50-60 experts in a variety of agricultural areas in Afghanistan; and
- “The Agri-business Development Teams have been quick to use alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar, and small water dams, which in the absence of a national energy grid in Afghanistan are more reliable and easier to protect from enemy attack.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1075 was introduced on February 4, 2010 and was referred to the House Armed Services Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 1099 - Recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima (Bralley, D-IA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Saturday, March 20, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1099 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima; and
- “Recognizes and commends the members of the United States Marine Corps and all other members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima for their service and sacrifice, with particular honor and gratitude given to those members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in defense of the United States and of freedom during the Battle of Iwo Jima.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “2010 marks the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, in which the United States Marine Corps and other units of the United States Armed Forces captured the island of Iwo Jima during World War II;
- “22 Marines, 4 Navy corpsmen, and 1 Navy landing craft commander received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces, for their service during the Battle of Iwo Jima;
- “Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of Marines raising the American flag over Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima produced the most famous and lasting symbol of the courage and determination that brought victory to the United States Armed Forces during World War II;
- “The Battle of Iwo Jima was a military victory critical to the assault on Japan, providing a base for American fighter escorts and a way station for bombers raiding Japan; and
- “17,372 Marines were wounded and 5,931 Marines made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives for their country in the Battle of Iwo Jima.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1099 was introduced on February 23, 2010 and was referred to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

**H.Res. 925 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives
regarding the meritorious service performed by aviators in the
United States Armed Forces who were shot down over, or otherwise
forced to land in, hostile territory yet evaded enemy capture or were
captured but subsequently escaped (*DeFazio, D-OR*)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Saturday, March 20, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 925 resolves that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “Aviators in the United States Armed Forces who were shot down over, or otherwise forced to land in, hostile territory yet evaded enemy capture or were captured but subsequently escaped to return to their units and resume their service to the United States should be recognized for their extraordinary service; and
- “The Secretaries of the military departments should consider these aviators for appropriate recognition within their branch of the Armed Forces.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “Aviators in the Armed Forces, including pilots, navigators, bombardiers, weapons control officers, and other aircraft crew members, have served the United States with great courage and distinction in every major conflict during the 20th and 21st centuries;
- “Thousands of aviators in the Armed Forces have been forced down in hostile territory while performing their missions, either as a result of being shot down or because of mechanical problems with their aircraft;
- “Many of these aviators overcame long odds and great hardships to return to their units and resume their service to the United States;
- “The Armed Forces still have not recognized these aviators for their meritorious accomplishment of avoiding capture or escaping from captivity.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 925 was introduced on November 19, 2009 and was referred to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnell, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 900 - Supporting the goals and ideals of a Cold War Veterans Recognition Day to honor the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the Armed Forces during the Cold War and encouraging the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities honoring the sacrifices and contributions of those individuals (*Israel, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Saturday, March 20, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 900 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of a Cold War Veterans Recognition Day to honor the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the Armed Forces during the Cold War; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities honoring the sacrifices and contributions of those individuals.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “The Cold War involved hundreds of military exercises and operations that occurred between September 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991;
- “Millions of Americans valiantly stood watch as members of the Armed Forces during the Cold War;
- “Many Americans sacrificed their lives during the Cold War in the cause of defeating communism and promoting world peace and stability; and
- “May 1 is an appropriate day to observe a Cold War Veterans Recognition Day.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 900 was introduced on November 6, 2009 and was referred to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 1119 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all people in the United States should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad (*Peters, D-MI*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Saturday, March 20, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1119 resolves that it is sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “All people in the United States should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “It was through the brave and noble efforts of the Nation's forefathers that the United States first gained freedom and became a sovereign nation;
- “There are more than 1,500,000 active and reserve component members of the United States Armed Forces serving the Nation in support and defense of the values and freedom that all people in the United States cherish;
- “The Nation officially celebrates and honors the accomplishments and sacrifices of veterans, patriots, and leaders who fought for freedom, but does not yet

- officially pay tribute to those who currently serve in the United States Armed Forces;
- “All people in the United States should participate in a moment of silence to support our troops; and
 - “March 26, 2010, is designated as ‘National Support Our Troops Day’.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1119 was introduced on February 25, 2010 and was referred to the House Armed Services Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.R. 4887—TRICARE Affirmation Act (*Skelton, D-MO*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Saturday, March 20, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to include TRICARE under Department of Defense Health Coverage as minimally essential coverage.

Additional Background: In the haste to take over almost 1/6 of nation’s economy, and in the process of cutting back room deals to reach 216 votes, House Democrats are forced to prematurely amend the Patient Protection and Affordability Health Care Act (the Democrat health care bill) because they forgot to cover Veterans Care. In addition, this demonstrates just one important group of individuals House Democrats forgot to address in this process. Some conservatives may be concerned that the sloppy and secretive process leading to consideration of the health care bill may cause other individuals to be detrimentally impacted by the government take over of the health industry.

Committee Action: None.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO statement of cost is unavailable at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there is no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing the constitutional authority for Congress to enact this bill is unavailable.

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H.Con.Res. 222 - Recognizing the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States of America (*Ortiz, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Saturday, March 20, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 222 resolves that the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring):

- “Encourages—
 - “Teachers of primary schools and secondary schools to launch educational campaigns to inform students about the lifetime of accomplishments by Dr. Hector Garcia; and
 - “All people of the United States to educate themselves about the legacy of Dr. Hector Garcia; and
- “Recognizes the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States of America.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “Dr. Hector Garcia fought in World War II, specifically in North Africa and Italy, attained the rank of Major, and was awarded the Bronze Star with six battle stars;

- “Dr. Hector Garcia moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, after the war, and opened a medical practice; rarely charged his indigent patients, and was recognized as a passionate and dedicated physician;
- “Dr. Hector Garcia continued his public service and advocacy and became founder of the American G.I. Forum, a Mexican-American veterans association, which initiated countless efforts on behalf of Americans to advance opportunities in health care, veterans benefits, and civil rights equality;
- “President Kennedy appointed Dr. Hector Garcia a member of the American Treaty Delegation for the Mutual Defense Agreement between the United States and the Federation of the West Indies;
- “In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Dr. Hector Garcia as alternate ambassador to the United Nations where he gave the first speech by an American before the United Nations in a language other than English; and
- “President Reagan presented Dr. Hector Garcia the Nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom, in 1984 for meritorious service to his country, the first Mexican-American to receive this recognition.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 222 was introduced on December 15, 2009 and was referred to the House Judiciary Committee and the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Healthy Families and communities, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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